

WORK SESSION – February 15, 2005

Mayor William M. Breichner called this 81st Special Session and Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:02 p.m., Tuesday, February 15, 2005 in the Council Chambers at the City Hall. Present was Mayor Breichner; City Council Members K. B. Aleshire, N. L. Hendershot, L. C. Metzner, C. N. Moller, Councilmember P. M. Nigh, City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, City Attorney John Urner, City Attorney Mark Boyer and City Clerk D. K. Spickler.

The following members of the Washington County Commissioners were present: President Greg Snook, William Wivell, Doris Nipps, James Kercheval, John Munson and County Administrator Rod Shoop.

Joint Meeting – 2005 Tax Differential with Washington County Commissioners

Commissioner Snook stated the Fiscal Year 2005 Property Tax Set-Off allocation increased by .86% or \$ 10,784 over the prior year. The projected budget was \$ 1,420,000, with the actual allocation being \$ 1,269,622. The CAP percentage decreased from 29.81% and 28.27% or a 1.54% decrease.

The Highway Allocation is \$0 for both FY 04 and FY 05. Operations for road maintenance are paid for by State Highway User Revenue and various other departmental generated revenue. The Police allocation increased from \$ 984,208 for FY 04 to \$ 1,002,192 for FY 05. Net expenditures increased from \$ 3,301,605 for FY 04 to \$ 3,545,071 for FY 05. However, due to the decrease in the CAP% the allocation increase was \$ 17,984. The Parks allocation decreased from \$ 272,630 in FY 04 to \$ 265,430 in FY 05. Net expenditures increased slightly. However, due to the decrease in the CAP% the allocation had an overall decrease.

The total allocation for the City of Hagerstown is \$ 1,018,423.

Alfred Martin, Finance Director, stated the numbers are consistent with the formula that has been used for many years. However, if the City does not share proportionately in the overall growth in the metropolitan Hagerstown area in assessable base, population and personal taxable income, it will find itself increasingly constrained in its ability to generate the revenues needed to fund its operations and public service needs. The new annexation policy, property maintenance standards, and code enforcement policies are very positive steps in the right direction for the City. They will help ensure that the City shares in the growth occurring in our metropolitan area. These were the key factors in the bond rating agency, Moody's, giving the City a positive financial outlook along with the County.

Commissioner Snook invited the City to participate in the street overlay program again this year. He also invited the City to participate in any joint program the County has.

Mayor Breichner presented a letter to the County Commissioners requesting \$ 300,000 for the parking deck.

A & E District Parking Deck Project Update – 3D GIS Presentation

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, and Tim Williams, Engineering, provided a 3D GIS presentation of the A & E District Parking Deck project.

The deck is being constructed by Bowman Development Corporation for the City of Hagerstown and was designed by Harne & Bowen Architects. The cost of the deck is \$ 2.7 million and provides about 195 spaces.

Construction is expected to begin in March, 2005, with work concluding by the end of the calendar year. Access to the site will be provided in two phases. The second phase will occur as soon as the building at 23 East Washington Street can be removed.

Security will be provided by 29 cameras that will be linked to the Hagerstown Police Department's monitoring system. Parking equipment will be a "pay-on-foot" station on the third floor and "pay-in-lane" stations on the two outbound lanes. Pedestrian access will primarily be through the Potomac Walk building and the pedestrian alley between the Walker House and the Shindle Rohrer buildings.

The deck will have a brick veneer on the alley (main access) side and above the courtyard (behind the Walker House). Lighting will be white metal halide lights at about twice the intensity of the existing deck.

Commissioner Snook mentioned that design costs for Edgewood Drive have substantially increased. He wanted to make the Mayor and City Council aware of this.

Councilmember Hendershot asked if there were spaces available for handicapped vehicles. He expressed concern about the height limitations. Mr. Tissue indicated there would be a few spaces that would allow for higher vehicles, but height will be very limited.

The cost outline for the A & E Parking Deck presented to the County Commissioners is to be considered the official request for the \$ 300,000 funding that has been discussed.

Councilmember Nigh asked that someone explain how the 2 + 2 Committee came into existence. Commissioner Kercheval stated there are several issues that both the County Commissioners and the Mayor and City Council are discussing that affect both groups, such as annexation issues and water/sewer allocation issues. It was agreed that two members from each group discuss these issues and how to resolve the conflicts associated with them. The County is in a better position financially than the City and the City is in a better position in terms of sewer

allocation than the County. The 2 + 2 Committee has discussed how each group could assist the other group. For example, there could be allocation granted from the City in exchange for revenue sharing from the County. They had to wait until the Consent Judgement from the Maryland Department of the Environment was finalized before talks could continue. The Committee tries to educate each other on the issues and the concerns.

Councilmember Nigh stated it needs to be made clear that the Economic Development Commission (EDC) worked to bring this committee together. Councilmember Aleshire indicated Greater Hagerstown was the first group to present the idea. Councilmember Metzner stated EDC suggested this group when Tractor Supply was looking to locate a warehouse in Washington County.

Commissioner Nipps stated part of the EDC's motivation was the negative public perception of the relationship between the County and City because it was having a damaging effect on how the community was viewed. She stated being a member of the 2 +2 Committee has provided her with better insight into the issues facing the City. There is a list of items the Committee is working through.

Councilmember Nigh stated she thinks the Mayor and City Council do very well in working through issues. Councilmember Metzner stated if there were more people, the meetings would be required to be open. They could not have made much progress with the full group.

Commissioner Kercheval stated the 2 + 2 Committee does not set policy. Policies would be set by all members of the governing bodies. Councilmember Aleshire stated he hopes the next 2 + 2 Committee would be able to make progress on other issues, like central booking.

Mayor Breichner stated the \$ 300,000 from the County for the A & E Parking Deck was brought about from the 2 + 2 Committee discussions. Commissioner Kercheval and Councilmember Aleshire pointed out that the excise tax and the consent order details were also discussed by the 2 + 2 Committee.

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Resolution Authorizing City of Hagerstown to Enter Into a Development Agreement with Bowman 2000, LLC

Action: Councilmember L. C. Metzner made a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the City of Hagerstown to enter into a Development Agreement with Bowman 2000, LLC, a Maryland Limited Liability Company, to acquire from Bowman a portion of the property Bowman is purchasing located at 23 East Washington Street in order to improve public access to the Arts and Entertainment Parking Deck located south of East Washington Street and east of

South Potomac Street in Hagerstown, Maryland. Councilmember N. L. Hendershot seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Nigh asked if the City is purchasing the dirty bookstore. Deborah Everhart, Economic Development Director, stated a portion of the lot and the building that houses the bookstore is being purchased. The cost to demolish the building, widen the alley and install landscaping and lighting is approximately \$ 240,000.

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, stated Bowman 2000, LLC has acquired the building and will retain ownership until the building is demolished.

Councilmember Nigh expressed concern that the City will have spent over \$ 500,000 on this project.

Alfred Martin, Finance Director, stated the development agreement does require the City to make two payments to the fund, as well as money from the County. Councilmember Nigh stated she understood the first \$ 300,000 from the County was to go towards the parking garage. She is concerned that funding will go toward the purchase of the building and that, at some point, the funding will be coming from the taxpayers. Ms. Everhart indicated the funding plan including the first \$ 300,000, would be put towards the purchase and demolition of the building.

Motion carried, 4-1 with Councilmember Nigh voting No.

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Mr. Urner left the meeting at this time. Mr. Boyer arrived at the meeting.

Proclamation: Energy Assistance Week

Mayor Breichner read a proclamation recognizing February 20-26, 2005 as Energy Assistance Week.

The Mayor and City Council urged everyone to observe this week by participating in events across the State promoting the energy burden on low income families and raising awareness of the benefits available to those in need. The Washington County Community Action Council is committed to actively supporting and promoting the efforts of the State to educate residents and citizens on keeping safe from the cold in the winter and heat in the summer.

Preliminary Agenda Review

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to cancel the Work Session scheduled for March 8, 2005. The Regular Session will be held on March 29, 2005, instead of March 22, 2005. Work Sessions will be held on March 1, 15, and 22, 2005.

Reconstruction of Alley 1-136, Rear of Post Office

Building Systems, Inc. submitted a bid to reconstruct the alley adjacent to the Market House parking lot in the amount of \$ 34,700.00.

The Mayor and City Council agreed to accept the bid.

Design of Renovations to the Third Floor at City Hall

Harne Bowen Architects & Planners, LLC submitted a bid in the amount of \$ 17,250.00 to design renovations to the third floor of City Hall including offices, drafting room and kitchenette. Phase II will be a conceptual design for the fifth floor for future office spaces.

The Mayor and City Council agreed to accept the bid.

Engineering Services for Infiltration/Inflow Analysis

Black & Veatch will provide engineering services for Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) Analysis for the Collection System Rehabilitation project for \$ 66,425.00

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, indicated these engineering services are part of the accelerated I/I study. Councilmember Aleshire asked how the new employees fit in with this contract. Christopher Bordlemay, Water and Sewer Department Assistant Manager, stated this contract is for the more intense data analysis.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to award the bid to Black & Veatch.

17,500 GVW Diesel Service Truck

Keystone Ford submitted a bid of \$ 52,380.00 for a replacement vehicle for Unit 208 (Water Distribution). The vehicle is a 2005 Ford F-550 Diesel with a utility style body.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to accept the bid.

35,000 GVW Diesel Dump Truck

Mr. Bordlemay reported only one bid was received for a diesel dump truck and that bid was \$ 20,000 over the budgeted amount. It was the general consensus to re-bid the truck.

16,000 GVW Diesel Vehicle

Keystone Ford submitted a bid of \$ 34,650.00 for a 2005 Ford F-450 diesel vehicle. Mr. Bordlemay stated this bid is over the budgeted amount, but there is money available to transfer for this purchase.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the purchase.

Diesel Loader/Backhoe

Standard Equipment Company submitted a bid of \$ 70,990.00 for a loader/backhoe, which will replace the 1993 backhoe used in the Water & Sewer Department.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the purchase.

¾ Ton Pickup Truck

Criswell Chevrolet, Inc. submitted a bid for a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck in the amount of \$ 20,070.00. This bid is under the State contract.

The Mayor and City Council agreed to purchase the vehicle.

Councilmember Nigh asked what happens to the old vehicles when they are replaced. Mr. Bordlemay stated they are sent to an auction and the money received is revenue. If there is a need to keep the vehicle, they will do so.

Councilmember Nigh suggested transferring vehicles to other departments. Alfred Martin, Finance Director, stated the departments work together and transfer vehicles when feasible.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, stated bids were received for consultant services to prepare the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. She stated two bids were not opened because the review team felt the bidders were not qualified. Environmental Resources Management (ERM) submitted a bid of \$ 94,850 and the team recommends awarding the bid to ERM.

The Mayor and City Council agreed to accept the bid from ERM.

Hurst Jaws of Life Systems

Chief Gary Hawbaker stated Specialty Rescue Systems submitted the low bid of \$ 38,971.00 for two Hurst Jaws of Life Systems. The funding for this purchase is from the federal grant awarded to the Hagerstown Fire Department.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve this purchase.

Ford Expedition – K-9 Vehicle

Norris Ford submitted a bid of \$ 23,954.00 for a Ford expedition. The vehicle is to be used as a K-9 vehicle for the handler that has two dogs.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the purchase.

Chevrolet Cobalt

Criswell Chevrolet submitted a bid of \$ 10,728.00 for a Chevrolet Cobalt. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the purchase.

Five (5) Ford Crown Victoria Patrol Vehicles

Miller Brothers Ford submitted a bid in the amount of \$ 104,885.00 for five Ford Crown Victoria patrol vehicles. Chief Charles Summers indicated these vehicles may not be available after July 1. Mr. Martin stated he is supportive of this purchasing plan. There is a total of \$ 100,000 in carry over and new funds. Two vehicles will be ordered now and the other three will be funded from next year's budget.

The Mayor and City Council approved this purchase.

Resolution: Approval of Lease Renewal – 7 - 11 South Potomac Street, Has Been Boxing

Has Been Boxing of Hagerstown's lease for 7-11 South Potomac Street expires on February 28, 2005. Both parties want to renew the agreement for an additional year.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to renew the lease with Has Been Boxing.

Resolution: Approval of Lease Renewal – 12 Public Square, The Rhubarb House

The Rhubarb House's lease for 12 Public Square expires on February 28, 2005. Both parties want to renew the agreement for an additional year.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to renew the lease with The Rhubarb House.

Approval of Reprogramming of Funds

Lauren Bayer, Community Development Manager, stated Staff is requesting permission to reprogram \$ 175,000 into the Single Family Home Ownership Program. He stated there has been a dramatic increase in the cost of homes purchased under the Single Family Home Ownership Program. Additionally, the contractors who specialize in rehabilitation work are busy, causing higher bids for rehabilitation work.

The additional funds would be reprogrammed from City Park Restroom which would leave \$ 25,000 for that activity.

Councilmember Aleshire asked if the City is anticipating being priced out of the market. Mr. Bayer indicated the housing value will probably exceed the affordability for the people this program serves.

Councilmember Metzner asked if this will occur in the near future. Mr. Bayer stated there is a substantial amount of money at the State level so the program is still doing well.

Councilmember Metzner stated he is concerned about the future of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. He is concerned particularly that the non-profit organizations will see less and less money available. Mr. Bayer stated the City can't "bank" the money from CDBG, but the income from the sale of houses is being used to build up the account for the services provided to citizens.

Councilmember Nigh asked how many rehabilitated homes are still available for purchase. Mr. Bayer indicated every completed home has a contract for sale on it. The affordability determination is based on the individual's situation.

Councilmember Nigh stated she is concerned the homes that are to be built on the old Charlton Brothers property are going to be listed at \$ 190,000 and that doesn't seem affordable. She stated she is concerned that the restrooms at City Park are not going to be completed. Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, stated the bids received for the restrooms were extremely high. A new design is being developed by the Engineering Department.

Councilmember Hendershot stated updated restrooms are needed at City Park. He suggested the possibility of doing two facilities at \$ 75,000 each, rather than one facility for \$ 150,000.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the reprogramming of the funds. Mr. Bayer stated money will be included in next year's budget for the City Park restrooms.

Approval of State Highway Administration Route 77 Easements

Chris Bordlemay, Water and Sewer Department Assistant Manager, and Ed Norman, Water and Sewer Department Engineer, informed the Mayor and City Council that the State Highway Administration will be performing storm drain and culvert improvements along Route 77. The City is requesting easements for this work.

It was the general consensus to add this item to the agenda.

Approval of Elmwood Farm Water Main Easement

Mr. Norman stated the Hagerstown-Washington County Industrial Foundation, Incorporated has granted an easement for a 16-inch water main which is included in the construction drawings for the Elmwood Farm subdivision. The water line proposed in this easement will be part of the City's overall water master plan.

It was the general consensus to add this item to the agenda.

This completed the preliminary agenda review.

Fairgrounds Park Softball Fields and Complex – Review of Alcohol Possession/Consumption in City Parks

During prior discussion in Work Sessions, the Mayor and Council had expressed an interest in revisiting the alcohol possession/consumption policy within City parks. John Budesky, Director of Administrative Services, submitted a memo to provide additional information for the Mayor and Council's consideration.

The following information summarizes the current policy on alcohol in parks:

1. Park rules state: Alcoholic Beverages are prohibited in City Parks
2. On March 27, 2001, the Mayor and Council formally adopted an Ordinance that states:
The following activities are unlawful on the parks and playgrounds of the

City: the possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages on parks or playgrounds unless specifically authorized by the City, and, being present on the park or playground other than during the posted park hours of operation unless specifically authorized by the City. It also states that any person who violates any of these regulations shall be deemed guilty of a municipal infraction and shall be punished in accordance with the Code of the City of Hagerstown.

The Board of Parks agreed to prohibit alcohol at all city parks, with exception of Municipal Stadium, for Downtown events and the University Plaza (due to its closed nature).

The Parks and Recreation Department has received numerous requests for events that include alcohol. Some of these events are a chili cook-off, a bonanza, and rock concerts. There are a limited number of facilities in Washington County that provide this opportunity.

Staff is seeking direction from the Mayor and Council on how to proceed with this issue. Some options are:

1. Rely on the existing ordinance to address the issue of possession/consumption in City parks. This existing ordinance places the Mayor and Council in the position to hear all requests to utilize City parks for events that may include alcohol.
2. The existing ordinance can be modified and the Mayor and Council would accept the recommendation supported by the Parks Board.
3. Modifications to the existing ordinance could be considered.

Councilmember Nigh asked why the Parks Board recommended allowing alcohol in University Plaza. Mr. Budesky indicated scheduling would go through the Public Information office and some events may request alcohol at a special event.

Councilmember Nigh stated the Mayor and City Council have offered groups the opportunity to bring back plans for events for further discussion and this policy ends that opportunity. Councilmember Aleshire stated Fairgrounds Park is included in the prohibition of alcohol and if no changes are made, alcohol is not allowed there. Mr. Budesky stated that the Mayor and City Council can grant exemptions from the policy.

Councilmember Aleshire stated Fairgrounds Parks is sports oriented and was not designed as an event center. Councilmember Metzner stated he agrees, there are 18 park amenities to serve the City's citizens, not to cater to events.

Councilmember Aleshire stated the Mayor and City Council needs to have a better

understanding of the flexibility that exists at Municipal Stadium.

Mark Boyer, City Attorney, was asked to draft an ordinance amending the code to remove the ability to grant waivers.

Municipal Stadium Plaza Project

During the Mayor and Council's Work Session on February 8, 2005, an interest was expressed in revisiting the Municipal Stadium Plaza project. John Budesky, Director of Administrative Services, provided additional information for consideration. The following information details the Municipal Stadium Plaza project:

1. During the fall of 200 and spring of 2004, Parks and Recreation staff worked with Kurt Landis, of the Hagerstown Suns organization, to develop a new entrance plaza for Municipal Stadium.
2. In the spring of 2004, staff presented the Plaza concept to the Mayor and Council.
3. Staff included the Plaza project in the budget request for the 2004/2005 operating budget. Mayor and Council adopted the 2004/2005 budget in May of 2004.
4. The funding that was included in the budget included a Capital Improvement Project request of \$ 49,000 and \$ 28,000 in departmental labor allocation to provide city labor to construct the project. The \$ 49,000 includes the annual maintenance and repair allotment of \$ 20,000 that was included in prior year budgets resulting in a \$ 29,000 increase to complete the project. The total project cost is \$ 77,000.
5. City Parks and Recreation staff and Engineering Department staff have worked with the Suns organization on architectural designs for the project. Permit applications have been filed for approval. Once the permits are approved, staff plans to commence construction. The project will be phased in and construction of the Plaza will continue through the spring with a projected summer completion.

Mr. Budesky asked the Mayor and City Council if they were wanted to continue with the project. Councilmember Nigh asked what commitment has been given from the Suns that they are going to stay here. Mr. Budesky stated there is a lease with the Suns and the management says they are going to be here.

A request to extend the lease beyond December 31, 2005 has not been received at this time.

Councilmember Nigh asked how much money is budgeted for the stadium. Mr. Martin indicated it varies from year to year, but the average is \$ 30,000.

Kurt Landis, Hagerstown Suns, stated Mandalay Baseball Properties is in a continual process to expand their group from five teams to eight to ten teams. Mandalay is committed to keeping baseball in Hagerstown and they have no intention of discarding this market. They have no intention of leaving this territory empty. They would also like to begin the process of renewing the lease. Mandalay is very thrilled and excited about this market and they are excited to be a part of Hagerstown.

Mr. Martin informed the group that the current year \$ 49,000 in the CIP for the Plaza Project Phase I is from the Community Betterment Funds. The utility bills at the stadium are paid by both the City and the Suns. Councilmember Nigh asked what the Suns pay each year to use the stadium. Mr. Landis stated they pay one dollar, but they make the field repairs. The permanent improvements are paid for by the City.

Councilmember Nigh stated her biggest concern is that the Suns may stay in Hagerstown but not in the same location. If this were to happen, the \$ 90,000 could have been used for other projects.

Mr. Landis stated the East End Development plan is an eight to ten year vision. He stated it is difficult to handle increased attendance in the space they have at the stadium. These improvements would make a difference at the stadium.

Councilmember Aleshire stated this body has not been made aware of what the East End Development group is doing or of what commitment Mandalay reported to the newspaper.

Councilmember Metzner stated the Mayor and City Council agreed to do this project and it was included in the budget. He stated he thinks the East End Development plan is not close to discussing a new stadium. He stated he has never been in favor of public funding for a new stadium. He is in favor of continuing with the project.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to continue with the project.

City Policy on Fireworks

During the work session of February 8, 2005, the Mayor and City Council requested the opportunity to consider the merits of adopting a policy or ordinance pertaining to fireworks displays in Hagerstown.

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, provided the following background information:

1. All fireworks displays are required to receive a permit from the State Fire Marshall.
2. The Hagerstown Fire Department is on standby at all events of licensed fireworks displays.
3. The City's Fire Marshal inspects the site and materials prior to discharge of the fireworks.
4. There is no City permit or license required for fireworks displays within the City.
5. The City's Noise Ordinance does not definitively prohibit noise emanating from fireworks displays. In the past, the City Attorney has advised that the current noise ordinance does not provide a definitive answer on whether ongoing fireworks displays violate the ordinance.
6. The current stadium lease with the Suns expires in December, 2005. Fireworks are not addressed within this lease agreement.

For many years the Suns have held fireworks displays following their games. In 2002, the Suns held 5 displays. The number has increase to an anticipated 14 displays during the 2005 season. It is not unusual for minor league baseball teams to provide fireworks. These displays began to receive more attention from the neighborhood this past season because the Suns held three consecutive displays around the Fourth of July holiday.

The Suns fireworks displays receive corporate sponsorships, meet the requirements of the State's Fire Marshal, attract larger attendance to games, and are enjoyed by members of the community, who may not be in attendance. The unfortunate outcome of these displays is the concern generated amongst nearby residents primarily related to noise, with some complaints regarding smoke and debris.

If the Mayor and City Council wish to adopt a policy which permits or limits fireworks displays in some manner, staff would suggest that a proposed ordinance be prepared to amend the City Code. Among the issues that could be considered in such an ordinance would be the following:

1. The requirement that fireworks displays be approved by the City of Hagerstown and a permit either be approved by the Mayor and Council or issued through administrative procedures of one of the City departments.

2. The number of displays that can be held at the same location by one organization or business.
3. The starting and completion time for fireworks displays.
4. The continuation of the current functions of the State and City Fire Marshal Offices.
5. Public notification procedure requirements for the displays.
6. Insurance requirements.

Councilmember Metzner stated he realizes the noise ordinance does not cover fireworks. He stated it appears someone could say that fireworks are part of an approved athletic event.

Mark Boyer, City Attorney, indicated he thinks that may be a stretch to include fireworks as part of an approved athletic event. It is unclear if the State law would supersede the City's code in regards to fireworks.

Councilmember Metzner suggested that specific regulations for fireworks displays be included in the City Code.

Councilmember Moller asked if the game goes into extra innings, could the fireworks be postponed. Mr. Landis stated it is much safer to shoot the fireworks than to unload them.

Councilmember Metzner stated it needs to be made clear that the Mayor and City Council are not going to ban fireworks. Councilmember Aleshire stated the residents in the area of the stadium are looking for some balance in the number of displays. Mr. Landis stated he does not anticipate having more than 13 to 14 displays throughout the coming seasons. He noted other teams have much higher numbers of displays.

Councilmember Nigh agreed that the complaints are about the total number of displays throughout the season.

After considerable discussion, it was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to have Mr. Boyer draft an ordinance amending the noise ordinance to address fireworks and have staff determine what number of displays per year would be acceptable to the neighbors near the stadium.

The 2005 season is set and an amended ordinance will not affect this season.

Mr. Boyer left at this time.

Status of Wastewater Plant Improvements

Christopher Bordlemay, Water and Sewer Department Assistant Manager, discussed the various projects occurring at the Wastewater Treatment Plant including the Phase II improvements, O2 compressor replacement and switchgear replacement.

Phase II improvements include construction of a new Final Clarifier with the same loading rates as the other two clarifiers constructed during Phase I improvements. The existing filters will be demolished as part of this project. Combined, the new effluent pumps will have a 33MGD capacity compared to the current 20MGD capacity. Another important component of Phase II is the blending tank. The aeration basins will have the ability to bypass to a holding tank that will slowly blend back into disinfection.

City Light and Black & Veatch developed plans for switchgear replacement. The estimated cost of the project is about \$ 300,000. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has allowed incorporation into SRL.

One of the oxygen system air compressors failed and must be replaced. The Mayor and City Council has approved the purchase of a new air compressor and the replacement of valves.

The Department is conducting a pilot study to determine if the Parkson Dynasand filter can perform to levels expected by pending regulations for Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR). Nitrogen and Phosphorus regulations are tightening this pilot study using funds collected from the Bay Restoration Fund or Flush Tax. The cost of the project is \$ 225,000.

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Status

Bijan Haghtalab, Project Coordinator, presented an overview of the Inflow and Infiltration efforts. There are a variety of ways ground and surface water can get into the wastewater treatment system and be treated unnecessarily.

In order to establish the sources of I/I, a number of field investigations will be conducted. These sources are identified through visual inspection, TV inspection, smoke and dye testing and interconnection investigation.

Flow monitoring is used to gauge the hydraulic data of the system. The Department has purchased 10 flow meters to monitor flows in various locations. Four were installed to monitor the County's flow and another three were installed in District 9, close to Municipal Stadium. The remaining three will be used for emergency monitoring.

As part of the maintenance effort, the Department will continue with sewer lining, manhole

lining and manhole top inserts.

Short term goals of the proposed correction program are:

1. Line or Rehab Main Trunks along the Creeks
2. Rehabilitation of Clay and Concrete Pipes with PVC
3. Lateral Lining

Long term goals include:

1. Engineering Analysis – conduct peak flow analysis, establish I/I reduction goals and estimate wet weather flow by source
2. Recommend Rehabilitation – implement repairs to address sanitary sewer Overflow and implement repairs to address structural/safety issues
3. Establish cost
4. Define implementation schedule based on availability of funds
5. Develop rehabilitation schedule/timeline

City Administrator's Comments

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, congratulated the two teams of City employees that competed in a recent trivia contest.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilmember P. M. Nigh asked that Holly Place be added to the agenda for next week. She has received calls from citizens asking where they can send money to help support Holly Place.

She expressed concern that there will be more homeless people in Hagerstown for the summer. She stated the Neighborhoods Patrol is looking for people to help. This program is helping making neighborhoods safer.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner expressed his concern that a reduction in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding will leave many non-profit organizations in the community without adequate funding.

A bill is before the legislature for consideration of a change in CDBG funding that may decrease funding. Mayor Breichner stated the lobbying interest against this bill is strong and

very active.

Mr. Zimmerman pointed out that a 20% reduction in the program would mean a \$ 200,000 decrease to the City.

Councilmember C. N. Moller stated a Wellness Expo will be held at Hagerstown Community College on February 18, 2005.

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire stated there are several things in the Brothers United Who Dare to Care newsletter, SPEAK UP, that he finds to be contradictory. He stated the newsletter indicates there has been no response from the City about the cable access for a public channel. He stated there has been a response but it was not in the way they wanted. He asked everyone to remember the flyers circulated in the community accusing one individual of circulating hate mail is only an opinion presented by Rev. Guillory.

He stated he has received many letters from amateur radio operators about the Broadband initiative. He asked that an informational discussion be held to address the issues they are raising and providing information to the public. Michael Spiker, City Light Manager, stated the FCC regulations are listed in every memo. He stated they will work with any group that comes in and he is confident that everyone can work together.

Councilmember Aleshire stated he is also concerned about the CDBG funding situation.

Councilmember N. L. Hendershot stated he is still holding out hope that Holly Place will be used as a shining example of how this type of program works. He realizes it will take a combination of funding sources to make this happen. He thanked Senator Donald Munson and Delegate Chris Shank and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for their efforts to keep Holly Place open.

Mayor W. M. Breichner stated Delegate Shank informed him they are still trying to find a solution to the problem. He also asked if the City's commitment of \$ 40,000 was still valid.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and City Council, on a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved: